

Amendments to the Claims

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A rotary weed extraction tool comprising:
an elongated rotatable shaft having an upper end and a lower end;
a claw structure disposed at said lower end of said shaft;
said claw structure including a first blade and a second blade;
said first blade comprising said lower end of ~~being fixed relative to~~ said shaft;
said lower end of said shaft having a single point;
said second blade being movable relative to said first blade; and
a spring resiliently biasing said second blade toward said first blade.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently amended) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 1 ~~claim 3~~, said second blade being pivotally mounted relative to said shaft.
5. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a blade defining member including said second blade, said blade defining member including a lever portion and a central body portion between said second blade and said lever portion.
6. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 5, said central body portion being pivotally mounted relative to said shaft.
7. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 6, said spring being connected between said lever portion and said shaft.

8. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 7, said spring comprising a body of resilient rubber or rubber-like material.

9. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 8, said spring comprising an O-ring placed around said shaft and said lever portion.

10. (Currently amended) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 5 ~~claim 7~~, said lever portion including a handle.

11. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 5 said blade defining member being a metal panel.

12. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 11, said shaft having a slot extending through said shaft, and said central body portion extending through said slot.

13. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 12, said central body portion being pivotally mounted in said slot.

14. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 13, said spring comprising rubber or rubber-like material in said slot.

15. (Original) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 13, said blade defining member being in a single plane coinciding with the axis of said shaft.

16. (Currently amended) A weed extraction tool as claimed in claim 13, said blade defining member being formed with a corner between said central body portion and said second blade, said second blade lying in a plane parallel to and spaced from the axis of said shaft.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (New) A rotary tool for extracting a weed from the ground, said tool comprising:

an elongated rotatable shaft having a central longitudinal axis, an upper end and a lower end;

said lower end of said shaft having a single point located on said axis for rotary entry into the ground;

a claw structure including first and second opposed blades disposed at said lower end of said shaft;

said lower end of said shaft and said point comprising said first blade;

a member defining said second blade and being movable relative to said first blade;

said blade defining member including said second blade at a first end of said blade defining member and including a handle lever at a second end of said blade defining member;

said second blade being pointed;

said blade defining member having a central portion between said handle lever and said second blade, said central portion being pivotally mounted to said shaft; and

a spring resiliently biasing said second blade toward said first blade.

19. (New) A tool as claimed in claim 18, said spring comprising a flexible, expandable band encircling said handle lever and said shaft and biasing said opposed blades toward one another.

20. (New) A tool as claimed in claim 19, said band being an O-ring.

21. (New) A method of extracting a weed from the ground comprising the steps of:

capturing the weed in a tool;

said capturing step including (i) inserting a pointed shaft into the ground near the weed, (ii) engaging the ground near the weed with a blade that is pivoted to the shaft, and (iii) rotating the shaft and the pivoted blade to grasp and capture the weed between the shaft and the blade;

resiliently biasing the blade toward the shaft; and

lifting the tool and the captured weed up from the ground.